

# Lake Oroville Area Recreation Survey

Dear Lake Oroville Area Visitor:

We missed you!

This year, a short survey of recreation visitors in the Lake Oroville Area is being conducted by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). Visitors of all types are being asked to complete a brief survey. This important study will provide the DWR with valuable information about recreation use and visitor satisfaction with the Lake Oroville Area.

Because we were not able to contact you in person, we would like to invite you to participate in the study with this mail-back survey.

A limited number of people are receiving this survey, so your returned copy is particularly valuable to us.

All the information you provide is strictly confidential and will not be used for any other purpose.

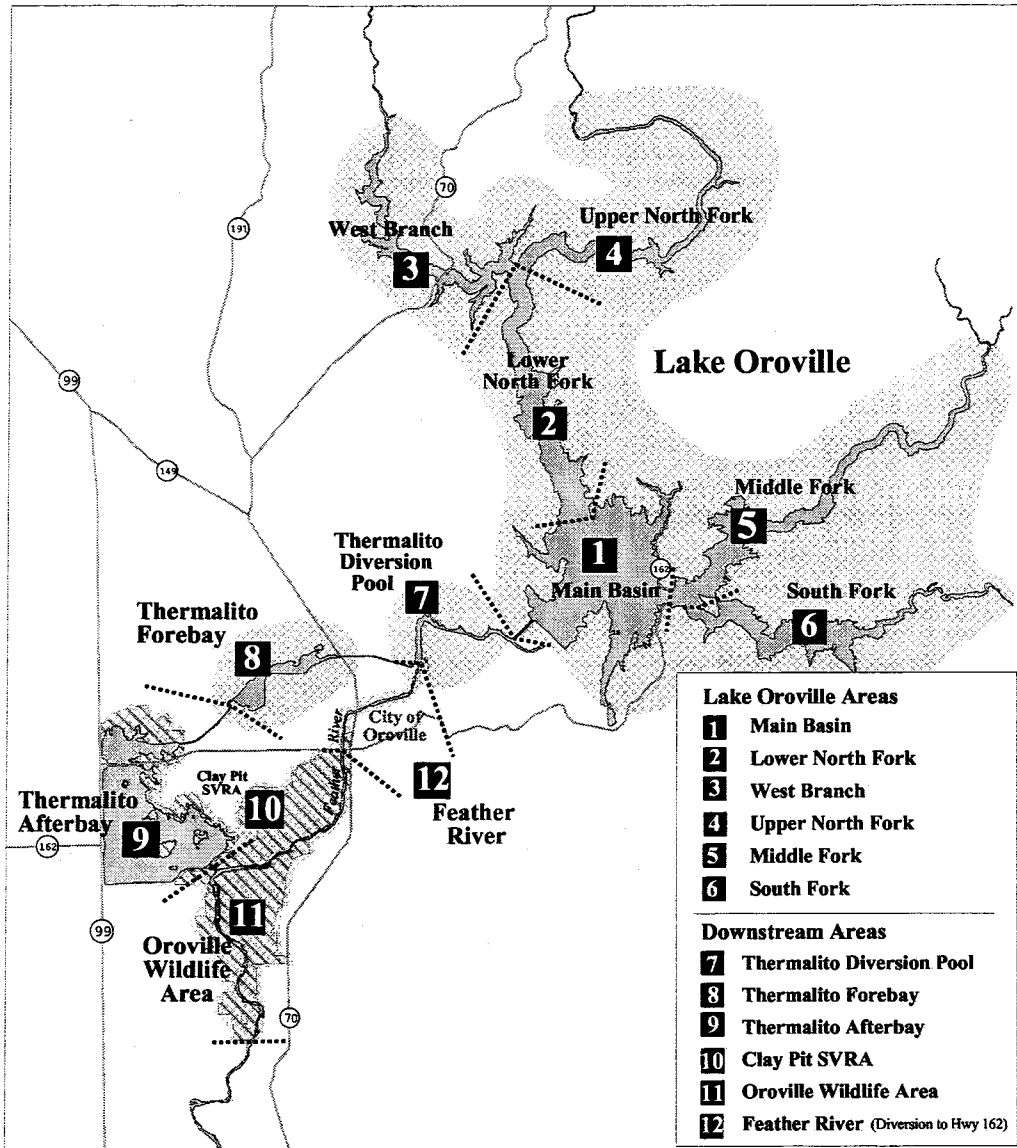
Thank you for your participation in this important study. If you have any questions about this survey effort, please contact me at (415) 433-1484 or email [baasj@edaw.com](mailto:baasj@edaw.com).

Sincerely,

John Baas  
Harza/EDAW Recreation Planning



Use this map to reference questions 1, 4, 16, 29, and 30.



**Lake Oroville Recreation Areas**

## Lake Oroville Recreation Visitor Questionnaire

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Please complete the following survey as completely as possible. Read section directions carefully, as not all questions will apply to you. Some sections only apply to specific activities, such as fishing. Your views about recreation in the Lake Oroville Area (see adjacent map) are very important to us. When you have completed the survey, please give it to one of the DWR researchers in this area today. Please **circle the number corresponding with your answer**, unless otherwise instructed.

**Q-1.** Regarding the Lake Oroville Area, do you consider yourself: (**Circle one number**)

1. A regular visitor to this area (*3 or more times per year*)
2. An occasional visitor (*1-2 times per year*)
3. An infrequent visitor (*Less than 1 time per year*)
4. This is my first visit

**Q-2.** On this trip to the Lake Oroville Area, when did you arrive?

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
*Arrival Date*

\_\_\_\_AM/PM  
*Arrival Time*

When did you or do you expect to leave the Lake Oroville Area?

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
*Departure Date*

\_\_\_\_AM/PM  
*Departure Time*

**Q-3.** During the last 12 months (including this trip), which seasons did you visit the Lake Oroville Area?

1. Spring      2. Summer      3. Fall      4. Winter

**Q-4.** Looking at the map of recreation locations within the Lake Oroville Area, which of the following areas do you plan to visit on this trip? (**Circle all numbers that apply**)

**Lake Oroville**

**Downstream Areas**

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| 1. Main Basin       | 7. Thermalito Diversion Pool   |
| 2. Lower North Fork | 8. Thermalito Forebay  |
| 3. West Branch      | 9. Thermalito Afterbay   |
| 4. Upper North Fork | 10. Clay Pit State Vehicular Recreation Area                                     |
| 5. Middle Fork      | 11. Oroville Wildlife Area (Includes Feather River<br>downstream of Highway 162) |
| 6. South Fork       | 12. Feather River (Diversion Pool to Highway 162)                                |

**Q-5.** At this location, how crowded do you feel today?

1-----	2-----	3-----	4-----	5-----	6-----	7-----	8-----	9-----
Not at all Crowded		Slightly Crowded			Moderately Crowded			Extremely Crowded

**Q-6.** How many people, including yourself, are in your group today?

Number of adults \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children (less than 18 years old) \_\_\_\_\_

**Q-7.** What is the zip code of your primary residence? \_\_\_\_\_

**Q-8.** Are you a Butte County resident?

1. Yes

2. No

**Q-9.** Are you staying overnight in Butte County (not including at your own home) on this trip?

1. Yes

2. No (go to Q-11)

**Q-10.** At what type of accommodations will you be staying?

1. RV/Auto/Tent Campground (Which campground? \_\_\_\_\_ )

2. Boat-in campground (Which campground? \_\_\_\_\_ )

3. Floating Campsite

4. Houseboat

5. Motel/hotel (Where? \_\_\_\_\_ )

6. Bed and Breakfast (Where? \_\_\_\_\_ )

7. Other (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**Q-11.** Briefly describe why you chose to visit the Lake Oroville Area on this trip rather than other recreation areas in northern California. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Q-12.** On this trip to the Lake Oroville Area, in which of the following activities have you or do you expect to participate? (**Circle all numbers that apply**)

Wildlife	Boating	Active	Passive
1. Bank fishing	13. Rafting	22. Swimming	35. Sunbathing
2. Boat fishing	14. Motor boating	23. Tennis	36. Sightseeing
3. Hunting	15. House boating	24. Golf	37. Photography
4. Nature study	16. Personal Watercraft use	25. Hiking	38. Picnicking
5. Bird watching	17. Sailing	26. Backpacking	39. Painting /drawing
	18. Kayaking	27. Off highway vehicle driving/motorcycling/ATV	40. Relaxing
	19. Canoeing		41. RV camping
<b>Urban</b>	20. Windsurfing	28. Bike on roads/paths	42. Rock collecting
6. Movies and theater	21. Water ski/Wake board	29. Mountain bike on trails	
7. Shop (art/clothes/antiques)		30. Horseback riding	
8. Museum/art gallery/historic site		31. Tent camping	
9. Amusement park		32. Camping at a floating campsite	
10. Dining out at restaurants/bars		33. Dog walking	
11. Concert/festival/ tournament/event		34. Panning for gold	
12. Attend educational events			
43. Other activity ( <i>please specify</i> ) _____			

**Q-13.** Of the activities you circled in **Q-12** above, what is the primary activity that you participated in, or expect to participate in, on this visit? (**Write in the corresponding number from above**)

Primary activity # \_\_\_\_\_

**Q-14.** How would you rate the scenery of the location you are currently at in the Lake Oroville Area? (**Circle appropriate number**)

1-----2-----3-----4-----5-----6-----7-----8-----9  
 Extremely Unappealing                      Unappealing                      Appealing                      Extremely Appealing

**If you have fished or expect to fish in this area on this trip, please complete Q-15 through Q-21. Otherwise, skip to the next section.**

**Q-15.** Have you fished in the Lake Oroville Area before this trip?

1. Yes If Yes, approximately how many times over the past 12 months? \_\_\_\_\_
2. No

**Q-16.** Have you used a fishing outfitter or guide in the Lake Oroville Area in the last 12 months?  
(refer to map)

1. Yes If yes, for what area? (Circle all that apply)

**Lake Oroville**

**Downstream Areas**

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| 1. Main Basin       | 7. Thermalito Diversion Pool   |
| 2. Lower North Fork | 8. Thermalito Forebay  |
| 3. West Branch      | 9. Thermalito Afterbay   |
| 4. Upper North Fork | 11. Oroville Wildlife Area (Includes Feather River<br>downstream of Highway 162) |
| 5. Middle Fork      | 12. Feather River (Diversion Pool to Highway 162)                                |
| 6. South Fork       |  |

2. No

**Q-17.** Have you participated in fishing tournaments in the Lake Oroville Area in the last 12 months?

1. Yes (Which ones? \_\_\_\_\_ )
2. No

**Q-18.** How many hours did you fish at this area today? \_\_\_\_\_ hours

**Q-19.** Please indicate how crowded you felt at the area you fished today. (**Circle a number**) Skip to **Q-22** if you have not fished today.

1-----2-----3-----4-----5-----6-----7-----8-----9  
 Not at all                      Slightly                                      Moderately                                      Extremely  
 Crowded                      Crowded                                      Crowded                                      Crowded

**Q-20.** Complete the following table about the species you are fishing for today, and whether or not you caught any fish. Where appropriate, enter the number of fish you caught/released. If you have not fished today, skip to **Q-22**.

Are you fishing for: (Circle all that apply)	Number of Fish Caught in Each Size Category					Number with Adipose Fin Clipped?			Number Released?
	0-5"	6-11"	12-20"	21-30"	31"+	C	N	NS	
1. Black Bass									
2. Sunfish/ Bluegill									
3. Catfish									
4. Crappie									
5. Trout									
6. Salmon									
7. Steelhead									
8. Striped Bass									
9. Shad									
10. Green Sturgeon									
11. White Sturgeon									
12. Other									
13. No Preference									

C = clipped adipose fin

N = adipose fin NOT clipped

NS = not sure



Q-21. What time did you begin fishing and what time will you stop?

\_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM  
*start time*

\_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM  
*end time*

Q-22. Regarding fishing regulations:

Do you feel knowledgeable about them?

1. Yes            2. No

Do you feel they allow a quality recreation experience?

1. Yes            2. No

Q-23. Overall, are you satisfied with your fishing experience at the Lake Oroville Area on this trip?

1. Yes            2. No    Why not? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Non-Motorized Trail Users Only. If you have used or expect to use trails in the Lake Oroville Area on this trip, please complete Q-24 through Q-29. Otherwise, skip to the next section.**

Q-24. Please specify your primary type of trail use: (Circle response)

1. Bike            2. Hike/Walk            3. Equestrian            4. Other \_\_\_\_\_

Q-25. Is this your first time using trails in the area?

1. Yes            2. No

**Q-26.** Please indicate how crowded you felt on the trail you used during this trip. (**Circle a number**)

1-----2-----3-----4-----5-----6-----7-----8-----9  
Not at all                      Slightly                                      Moderately                                      Extremely  
Crowded                      Crowded                                      Crowded                                      Crowded

**Q-27a.** On this trip, did you have any encounters on the trail with other users that put you at risk?

1. Yes; please describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. No (**go to Q-28**)

**Q-27b.** Regarding these encounters on trails: With whom have you had encounters? (**Circle any that apply**)

1. Bicyclists              2. Equestrians              3. Hikers/Walkers              4. Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Q-28.** Overall, are you satisfied with the condition of Lake Oroville Area trails on this trip?

1. Yes                      2. No    Why not? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Q-29.** What is your favorite trail or trail section in the Lake Oroville Area? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**River and Reservoir Boaters Only. If you have boated or expect to boat on this trip, please complete Q-30 through Q-41. Otherwise, skip to the next section.**

**Q-30.** On this trip, at what site did you primarily boat? (Circle one area; refer to map for sites or section)

**Lake Oroville**

**Downstream Areas**

1. Main Basin

7. Thermalito Diversion Pool

2. Lower North Fork

8. Thermalito Forebay

3. West Branch

9. Thermalito Afterbay

4. Upper North Fork

11. Oroville Wildlife Area (Includes Feather River downstream of Highway 162)

5. Middle Fork

12. Feather River (Diversion Pool to Highway 162)

6. South Fork

**Q-31.** On this trip, did you personally experience any encounters with other users on the water that put you at risk?

1. Yes If Yes, where \_\_\_\_\_ (Refer to map)

Briefly describe the encounter \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. No

**Q-32.** Did you observe any boating activity today that you felt put others at risk?

1. Yes If Yes, briefly describe unsafe activity \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. No

**Q-33.** Please indicate how crowded you felt on the water today. (**Circle a number**) Skip to **Q-34** if you have not been on the water today.

1-----2-----3-----4-----5-----6-----7-----8-----9  
Not at all                      Slightly                      Moderately                      Extremely  
Crowded                      Crowded                      Crowded                      Crowded

**Q-34.** What type of watercraft do you **primarily** use when visiting the Lake Oroville Area?  
(**Circle one**)

1. Runabout/Pontoon/Cabin cruiser/Ski boat/Motorboat
2. Houseboat
3. Sailboat
4. Canoe/Kayak
5. Personal Watercraft (jet ski/ wave runner/etc.)
6. Other (Describe: \_\_\_\_\_)

**Q-35.** Do you own or rent the watercraft mentioned in **Q-34**, that you **primarily** use?

1. Own                      2. Rent                      3. Other (explain: \_\_\_\_\_)

**Q-36.** For the watercraft you primarily use, do you dock or moor it at Lake Oroville?

1. Yes    Year round or Seasonal (**circle one**)                      2. No

**Q-37.** Have you ever used one of the boat launches in the Lake Oroville Area?

1. Yes                      2. No    (**Skip to Q-42**)

**Q-38.** Which of the following boat launches have you used during the last 12 months? (**Circle all that apply**)

- |                                      |                                 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Lime Saddle                       | 10. Dark Canyon Car-Top         |
| 2. Spillway launch                   | 11. Stringtown Car-Top          |
| 3. Bidwell Canyon                    | 12. Nelson Bar Car-Top          |
| 4. Loafer Creek                      | 13. Vinton Gulch Car-Top        |
| 5. Enterprise                        | 14. Foreman Creek Car-Top       |
| 6. N. Thermalito Forebay             | 15. Div. Pool-Burma Rd/RR Grade |
| 7. S. Thermalito Forebay             | 16. River launch                |
| 8. Thermalito Afterbay Monument Hill | 17. Other _____                 |
| 9. Thermalito Afterbay Larkin Road   | 18. Other _____                 |

**Q-39.** Which boat launch do you use most frequently? \_\_\_\_\_ (**Write in number from above**)

**Q-40.** Do you typically have to wait to use the boat launch you most frequently use?

1. Yes If Yes, on average, how many minutes do you have to wait to use this ramp?

Number of minutes \_\_\_\_\_

2. No

**Q-41.** Overall, are you satisfied with your boating experience on this trip to the Lake Oroville Area?

1. Yes 2. No Why not? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Finally, we would like to know something about you. This information will not be distributed to any other group for any purpose. ALL RESPONSES WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL.**

**Q-42.** What is the highest level of education you have completed? (**Circle appropriate number**)

- |                         |                                     |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Some high school     | 4. Bachelor's degree or equivalent  |
| 2. High school graduate | 5. Master's degree or equivalent    |
| 3. Some college         | 6. Ph.D., J.D., M.D., or equivalent |

**Q-43.** What is your age? \_\_\_\_\_

**Q-44.** What is your primary occupation?

- |                           |                      |               |                  |
|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1. Professional/Technical | 5. Service           | 9. Retired    | 13. Other: _____ |
| 2. Manager/Administrator  | 6. Teacher/Professor | 10. Student   |                  |
| 3. Sales                  | 7. Skilled Worker    | 11. Military  |                  |
| 4. Clerical               | 8. Laborer           | 12. Homemaker |                  |

**Q-45.** Please circle the category that represents your total household income before taxes.

- |                       |                      |                        |
|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Less than \$20,000 | 3. \$40,000-\$59,999 | 5. \$80,000-\$100,000  |
| 2. \$20,000-\$39,999  | 4. \$60,000-\$79,999 | 6. More than \$100,000 |

**Q-46.** Of the choices listed below, please circle the ethnic group with which you most closely identify.

1. Latino/Hispanic

5. American Indian/Alaska Native

2. White/Anglo (non Hispanic)

6. Pacific Islander/ native Hawaiian

3. Asian

7. Other \_\_\_\_\_

4. African American/Black

**Q-47.** Do you have any additional comments?

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***Please Turn to Back Page*** 

So that we can find out more about what you think about uses and facilities in the Lake Oroville Area and about your spending on this trip, we would like to send you a brief follow-up questionnaire. As a token of our appreciation for participating in this survey and the follow-up survey, we will provide you with a complementary map the of Lake Oroville Area. Additional information about the follow-up survey is included on the back side of the map.

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS BELOW. YOUR ADDRESS WILL REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL NOT BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your participation in this important recreation study!**

*For office use.*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_